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Statement submitted by International Council of Management Consulting Institutes, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

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Statement

The International Council of Management Consulting Institutes has 47 professional institutes as members. These members cover almost 60 countries and at least 85 per cent of the world's estimated 3 million management consultants. The International Council has been in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2001.

The International Council sets standards for assessing management consultants to receive qualification as certified management consultants. A certified management consultant is required to demonstrate the qualities defined by purchasers of their services worldwide. While consultants from other countries can transfer skills and approaches, the International Council notes the value of competent indigenous management consultants who understand and appreciate the local culture, customs and barriers in their role as "change agents". Knowing what really needs to change is often a crucial factor in working with people and organizations concerned with successful and long-lasting change.

Indigenous professional consultants can help development projects meet objectives and increase the capacity and capability of the local economy. The extent of the use of the benefits obtained, for instance, in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, is a political decision.

Ensuring a good supply of these indigenous consultants is greatly assisted by the formation of the national institutes for professional management consultants, and the International Council has focused on this in many countries. A key partner has been the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) with many transition economies and their remit. For example, in Kazakhstan, the EBRD funded a train-the-trainer course. In three years more than 200 consultants have been trained and more than a 1,000 organizations assisted. The International Council and the EBRD have now worked together in more than 10 countries.

The International Council of Management Counsulting Institutes proposes the formation of a cadre of dedicated programme consultants for the Millennium Development Goals, able to share experiences and successful approaches worldwide. This cadre should include consultants from developing countries so that cultural sensitivity is fully considered.